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 MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

Approved For Release 2005/06/13 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100070016-4

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740705

DATE-TIME GROUP

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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(3)

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ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 5 JULY 1974

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA/GABON BORDER DISPUTE

THE TWO-YEAR-OLD TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN EQUATORIAL GUINEA
 AND GABON HAS FLARED UP AGAIN, AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY BOTH
 GOVERNMENTS TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION ARE AT AN IMPASSE. NEITHER
 COUNTRY HAS ASKED THE UN OR OAU TO INTERVENE, AND THE FLARE-UP SO
 FAR HAS RECEIVED NO FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE. THUS FAR THERE HAS
 BEEN NO SHOOTING.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA PRECIPITATED THE LATEST INCIDENT LAST WEEK
 WHEN ITS TROOPS OCCUPIED TERRITORY IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF
 GABON AND CAPTURED SEVERAL LOCAL GABONESE OFFICIALS. GABONESE
 GUARDARMES SUBSEQUENTLY MADE A RETALIATORY INCURSION INTO

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State Department review completed

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA FROM WHICH THEY RETURNED WITH 30 HOSTAGES.
HOSTAGES ON BOTH SIDES SUBSEQUENTLY WERE RELEASED, BUT GUINEAN
TROOPS HAVE NOT GONE BACK ACROSS THE BORDER AND GABONESE PRESIDENT
ONGO HAS NOW ORDERED HIS TROOPS INTO THE AREA.

IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHY EQUATORIAL GUINEAN PRESIDENT MACIAS
DECIDED TO PROVOKE THE INCIDENT AND TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS WITH
GABON AT THIS TIME. FRENCH DIPLOMATS IN LIBREVILLE BELIEVE ACTIONS
ARE RETALIATORY MEASURES FOR GABON'S OCCUPATION TWO YEARS AGO
OF ISLANDS EQUATORIAL GUINEA CLAIMS. FRENCH DIPLOMATS IN LIBREVILLE
ARE ANXIOUS TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION TO FORESTALL A POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT
OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT GABON HAS WITH FRANCE.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV AND NIO

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